

Bottle Hill Tavern  
Madison, Morris County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-58

HABS

N.J.

14-MAD

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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1.

Bottle Hill Tavern  
Madison, Morris County, New Jersey

Owner: Madison Historical Society

Date of Erection: About 1812

Architect:

Builder: Matthias Burnet

Present Condition: Good; interior has been  
remodelled, exterior is  
much as it was in Colonial  
days

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - north wall  
brick; rest frame construc-  
tion

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

In Colonial days a part of Morris County, including the present towns of Chatham and Madison, was known as Bottle Hill. It derived its name from an old tavern located on the hill which had a bottle displayed as its sign. In 1834 the town decided that they would like to have a more dignified name, and Madison was selected in honor of President Madison.

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In 1804 a new toll road was opened through Bottle Hill. The stage coaches used it on their run from Paulus Hook to Morristown. It took three days to make the trip to New York and return. Since it was not possible to travel after dark, taverns were a necessity. Bottle Hill Tavern was one of these built at the crossing of the main road in what is now the center of Madison.

In 1819 the inn was sold by its joint owners, Matthias Burnet and Baxter Sayre, to Colonel Stephen Hunting. Hunting entertained Lafayette during his stay at Bottle Hill in 1825 at the inn. Madison masons had their first lodge room in this inn.

In 1923 the property came into the possession of the First National Bank of Madison. It was their intention to demolish the structure and build their new bank building on the site. Members of several of the old families in Madison formed the Madison Historical Society to preserve landmarks and traditions in that section. The bank presented the old tavern to the society with the understanding that they would move it away. It was moved from Waverly Place about a block to its present site, 127 Main Street.

#### Bibliography:

"The Bottle Hill Tavern" Pamphlet  
published by the Madison Historical  
Society

Field Book and Drawings of Survey

Matthew P. Rest  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.  
District Officer

Reviewed  
Sept. 2, 1936  
Yds